

Amendment No. 1 to HJR0115

**Davidson
Signature of Sponsor**

AMEND <SB>

House Joint Resolution No. 115*

FILED

Date _____

Time _____

Clerk _____

Comm. Amdt. _____

by deleting all language in the introduced resolution and by substituting instead the following:

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study how to eliminate the shortage of veterinarians in Tennessee communities.

WHEREAS, Tennessee's animal agriculture receipts for cattle, swine, poultry, and equine totaled 1.5 billion dollars in 2003; and

WHEREAS, the total assets of equine operations in Tennessee constitute another 6.09 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, this state and nation are facing a shortage of veterinarians who provide services to livestock owners; and

WHEREAS, over 70% of emerging infectious diseases and over 80% of biothreat agents can be passed from animals to humans; and

WHEREAS, increasing demands of bioterrorism preparedness will require additional veterinarians; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical shortage of veterinarians to serve certain communities in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, this critical shortage of veterinarians is particularly acute in rural communities throughout Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous factors that contribute to the shortage of veterinarians who provide services to livestock owners, which suggests that the solution to this problem should be multifaceted, including, but not limited to the selection and training of veterinary medical students; and

WHEREAS, the educational debt load carried by new veterinarians coupled with the cost of establishing and maintaining a private practice exceeds the ability of certain communities to finally support such a veterinarian; and

WHEREAS, this matter adversely affects the entire state of Tennessee, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that there is hereby created a special joint committee to study how to eliminate the shortage of veterinarians in Tennessee communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers. The Committee shall also include a representative from the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, the Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association and the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, each of whom shall be selected by his or her respective organization and shall serve in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity. An additional veterinarian, currently licensed in Tennessee, shall be appointed by the Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association. Such veterinarian shall practice in an underserved area of the state with a livestock focus. Such veterinarian shall also serve in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and

at its first meeting shall elect from among its legislative membership a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Fourth General Assembly no later than February 1, 2006, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.